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Contact: Rose Lynch, (608) 266-6753

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MARCH LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that 68 of Wisconsin's 72 counties experienced the lowest unemployment rate for March since 2001, and 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates in March 2005 compared to March 2004. Two counties had higher rates than 2004 and one county was unchanged.

Sixty-six counties had lower unemployment rates in March 2005 than they had experienced in February 2005, while six had higher rates. March in Wisconsin is a month that usually has quite high unemployment rates, often the highest of the year, so improvement this widespread is certainly a good sign. The lowest unemployment rates were estimated for Dane County, at 3.4 percent, and Calumet County and Ozaukee County, both at 4.0 percent. The highest March 2005 unemployment rates were recorded in Door County at 8.6 percent, Sawyer County at 8.7 percent, Adams County at 9.0 percent, and Rusk County at 9.5 percent.

"In March Wisconsin's labor market showed the greatest improvement in four years. Almost every county is registering a four year low in unemployment. This shows we are making progress and creating jobs, providing further evidence that, although challenges remain in many parts of the state, Wisconsin's labor market continues to improve," Secretary Gassman said.

The state saw a positive increase of 15,800 jobs between February and March of 2005, and 31,800 between March of 2004 and March of 2005. Wisconsin's over-the-month increases included 8,200 in the metropolitan areas of the state, while 27,400 of the over-the-year increases were in the metropolitan areas of the state. The northeastern sector of the state saw the strongest job growth, while the western sector of the state was not as strong.

METRO AREAS

All 12 of Wisconsin's Metropolitan Statistical Areas had lower unemployment rates in March 2005 than they had recorded for February 2005, all 12 had lower unemployment rates than they had one year ago, and 11 showed the lowest March rate since 2001. Several of the State's metro areas showed very marked improvement, most notably the Appleton metro area, the Green Bay metro area, the Milwaukee metro area, and the Sheboygan metro area.

The lowest metropolitan statistical area unemployment rate was estimated for the three-county Madison metro area, at 3.7 percent. The two-county Appleton metro area at 4.8 percent, the Oshkosh/Neenah metro area at 4.7 percent, and the Sheboygan metro area at 4.4 percent also had quite low unemployment rates.

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Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

Unadjusted estimates	March 2005	February 2005	March 2004
Total labor force	3,027,600	3,046,100	3,060,200
Employed	2,862,300	2,869,500	2,869,500
Unemployed	165,300	176,600	190,700
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.8%	6.0%

Seasonally adjusted	March 2005	February 2005	March 2004
Total labor force	3,051,800	3,071,100	3,075,800
Employed	2,911,200	2,921,000	2,913,500
Unemployed	140,600	150,100	162,300
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.9%	5.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.4%	5.7%

Unemployment % not seasonally adjusted	March 2005	February 2005	March 2004
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.5	5.8	6.2
<i>Appleton</i>	4.8	5.2	5.6
<i>Eau Claire</i>	5.7	6.1	6.2
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	5.1	5.4	5.9
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.2	5.6	6.0
<i>Janesville</i>	5.7	6.0	6.6
<i>La Crosse</i>	5.0	5.1	5.7
<i>Madison</i>	3.7	3.9	4.0
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.3	5.6	6.3
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	4.7	5.0	5.4
<i>Racine</i>	6.6	7.0	7.1
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.4	4.8	5.5
<i>Wausau</i>	5.0	5.6	5.5

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
March 2005
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
2	ADAMS	9.0%	9.8%	1	8.7%	59	MARATHON	5.0%	5.6%	56	5.5%
31	ASHLAND	6.6%	6.3%	41	7.4%	29	MARINETTE	6.7%	7.1%	28	7.8%
20	BARRON	7.3%	8.5%	9	8.1%	9	MARQUETTE	8.3%	8.8%	6	8.8%
21	BAYFIELD	7.3%	7.9%	19	8.2%	7	MENOMINEE	8.5%	8.3%	15	11.5%
62	BROWN	4.9%	5.2%	63	5.6%	39	MILWAUKEE	6.0%	6.3%	39	7.1%
47	BUFFALO	5.7%	6.0%	47	6.7%	67	MONROE	4.5%	4.6%	68	4.7%
16	BURNETT	7.6%	8.0%	18	7.8%	25	OCONTO	6.9%	7.6%	22	8.3%
70	CALUMET	4.0%	4.5%	69	4.8%	12	ONEIDA	8.0%	8.4%	11	8.6%
18	CHIPPEWA	7.4%	8.0%	17	7.8%	60	OUTAGAMIE	5.0%	5.4%	58	5.8%
11	CLARK	8.1%	8.4%	12	8.3%	71	OZAUKEE	4.0%	4.1%	71	4.5%
57	COLUMBIA	5.2%	5.8%	53	5.9%	17	PEPIN	7.4%	8.2%	16	7.7%
28	CRAWFORD	6.9%	7.0%	30	8.0%	50	PIERCE	5.7%	5.5%	57	6.0%
72	DANE	3.4%	3.6%	72	3.8%	19	POLK	7.4%	7.9%	20	8.3%
43	DODGE	5.8%	6.1%	45	6.7%	52	PORTAGE	5.6%	6.0%	46	6.1%
6	DOOR	8.5%	8.8%	7	9.9%	45	PRICE	5.8%	5.4%	60	6.7%
37	DOUGLAS	6.1%	6.3%	40	7.3%	30	RACINE	6.6%	7.0%	29	7.1%
35	DUNN	6.1%	6.6%	32	6.7%	55	RICHLAND	5.5%	5.8%	55	6.6%
64	EAU CLAIRE	4.7%	5.0%	64	5.2%	48	ROCK	5.7%	6.0%	48	6.6%
36	FLORENCE	6.1%	6.5%	35	7.5%	1	RUSK	9.5%	9.2%	3	10.0%
58	FOND DU LAC	5.1%	5.4%	59	5.9%	46	SAUK	5.7%	6.1%	43	6.1%
5	FOREST	8.6%	8.8%	8	8.9%	3	SAWYER	8.7%	9.2%	2	9.5%
53	GRANT	5.5%	5.9%	50	6.3%	33	SHAWANO	6.2%	6.6%	33	6.8%
51	GREEN	5.6%	6.1%	42	6.4%	68	SHEBOYGAN	4.4%	4.8%	67	5.5%
23	GREEN LAKE	7.2%	7.5%	25	7.5%	34	ST. CROIX	6.2%	6.4%	38	7.4%
44	IOWA	5.8%	6.0%	49	5.8%	10	TAYLOR	8.3%	7.9%	21	8.1%
14	IRON	7.7%	8.4%	10	9.4%	38	TREMPEALEAU	6.0%	6.4%	37	7.3%
13	JACKSON	7.8%	8.3%	14	8.3%	49	VERNON	5.7%	5.9%	52	6.7%
54	JEFFERSON	5.5%	5.9%	51	6.2%	4	VILAS	8.6%	9.0%	4	9.4%
15	JUNEAU	7.7%	8.3%	13	8.6%	61	WALWORTH	4.9%	5.3%	61	5.6%
32	KENOSHA	6.3%	6.6%	34	6.7%	8	WASHBURN	8.3%	8.9%	5	9.2%
56	KEWAUNEE	5.3%	5.8%	54	6.0%	63	WASHINGTON	4.8%	5.2%	62	5.6%
66	LA CROSSE	4.7%	4.9%	66	5.4%	69	WAUKESHA	4.2%	4.5%	70	5.1%
42	LAFAYETTE	5.8%	6.1%	44	6.8%	41	WAUPACA	5.8%	6.4%	36	6.3%
22	LANGLADE	7.3%	7.6%	24	8.7%	26	WAUSHARA	6.9%	7.4%	26	7.8%
27	LINCOLN	6.9%	7.2%	27	8.0%	65	WINNEBAGO	4.7%	5.0%	65	5.4%
40	MANITOWOC	5.9%	6.6%	31	8.2%	24	WOOD	7.1%	7.6%	23	7.4%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Bureau of Workforce Information

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
March 2005
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
11	APPLETON CITY	5.9%	6.7%	10	6.8%
2	BELOIT CITY	8.2%	8.7%	2	8.9%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.5%	3.8%	27	4.5%
19	EAU CLAIRE CITY	5.2%	5.5%	19	5.7%
12	FOND DU LAC CITY	5.8%	6.1%	12	6.7%
25	FRANKLIN CITY	3.9%	4.2%	25	5.0%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	7.4%	7.9%	3	8.4%
21	GREENFIELD CITY	4.5%	4.9%	21	5.1%
13	JANESVILLE CITY	5.6%	6.0%	14	6.8%
6	KENOSHA CITY	7.2%	7.5%	6	8.1%
16	LA CROSSE CITY	5.5%	5.7%	17	6.3%
28	MADISON CITY	3.2%	3.4%	28	3.7%
7	MANITOWOC CITY	6.7%	7.4%	7	9.4%
23	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	4.2%	4.4%	23	4.6%
4	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.4%	7.7%	5	8.7%
9	NEENAH CITY	6.1%	6.5%	11	7.4%
24	NEW BERLIN CITY	4.0%	4.3%	24	4.8%
22	OAK CREEK CITY	4.3%	4.8%	22	4.9%
20	OSHKOSH CITY	5.2%	5.4%	20	5.8%
1	RACINE CITY	10.2%	10.8%	1	10.5%
15	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.5%	6.0%	13	6.4%
8	STEVENS POINT CITY	6.5%	6.8%	9	7.4%
14	SUPERIOR CITY	5.6%	5.8%	15	6.9%
18	WAUKESHA CITY	5.2%	5.5%	18	6.5%
10	WAUSAU CITY	6.0%	6.9%	8	6.9%
26	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.7%	4.0%	26	4.5%
17	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.4%	5.7%	16	6.5%
5	WEST BEND CITY	7.2%	7.7%	4	7.7%

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